



File #: AR-21-540, Version: 1

TAMRMS#: B06

8.3

Parks Bylaw 07/2022 & Liquor Consumption in St. Albert Parks

Presented by: Daniele Podlubny, Interim Director, Recreation and Parks

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That the Community Living Standing Committee recommend to Council that the proposed Parks Bylaw 07/2022 be enacted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to share with the Community Living Standing Committee a recommendation for a new and modernized Parks bylaw to manage the long-term sustainability and stewardship of the parks and open spaces system within the growing City of St. Albert. This report also shares the outcomes of the Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces Pilot Program.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

G.5.1 Access to Parks and Open Spaces - Definitions currently in development to align with Municipal Development Plan and Active Transportation Plan.

G.5.2 Trail System - Definitions currently in development to align with Municipal Development Plan and Active Transportation Plan.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION

On August 16, 2021 Council passed the following motion (CM-21-031):

That the CAO be directed to implement a pilot program in compliance with provincial legislation, to run from late summer to early fall, to allow and assess the impact of liquor consumption in designated St. Albert parks, and that a report be made to Council not later than Q2 of 2022 on the experience and learning's of the pilot program including recommendations on permanently allowing liquor consumption in St. Albert parks.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Administrative Directive A-LS-09, Systematic Review of Bylaws, Council Policies and Administrative Directives directs that “Sponsoring Departments, with the assistance of Legislative Services, shall endeavor to complete a systematic review of Bylaws, Council Policies, and Administrative Directives every four (4) years”.

In 2019, a cross departmental team began the systematic review of the current Parks Bylaw 19/65. The Parks Bylaw is many decades old, and while it has been updated from time to time, has not been substantively reviewed since it was passed.

To date, the project has involved several steps including:

- Internal assessment of existing issues or concerns within parks.
- Cross jurisdictional scan of Alberta and other municipalities for commonalities including Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Airdrie, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie and several major Canadian cities.
- Identification of key areas of focus for improvement.
- Bylaw drafting.
- Internal workshops, interviews, and sub-working group discussion on draft bylaw provisions.
- Public engagement on identified changes including:
 - Online public engagement through Cultivate the Conversation.
 - Presentations and discussions at five virtual meetings (four stakeholder meetings, one public meeting).

Through the above scope of work, Administration has created a new Parks Bylaw (Attachment 1) for Council consideration and approval.

Key areas of focus in the proposed bylaw include:

- More flexibility for establishment of rules that are site specific through Chief Administrative Officer delegation.
- Removal of provisions covered in other Bylaws (e.g. firearms), unless especially relevant to park users.
- Adding provisions for events and businesses.
- Adding provisions around encroachments to align to the new Council Policy (approved in 2021).
- Adding a section on environmental protections.
- Ensuring the fine structure is more relevant to the offence and aligned to similar bylaws within the city and the region.
- Addressing previous Council direction regarding alcohol in parks.

If the proposed bylaw is approved, there are a number of implementation items to be addressed. Administration will work on webpage updates, creation of an administrative process for businesses in parks, updates to the City’s event process and other related workplan items as they are identified.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

Two objectives were identified for public participation:

- 1) To include a wide variety of perspectives when determining the recommended policy positions for each issue addressed in the Parks Bylaw.
- 2) To understand and fully consider public feedback when determining the recommended policy positions for each issue addressed in the Parks Bylaw.

In order to achieve the identified engagement objectives, public engagement occurred in multiple phases:

- Phase 1 (Issues Assessment): Meetings with the Youth Advisory Committee and Environment Advisory Committee were held on issues that had been identified as gaps or areas for improvement. This phase of public engagement was cut short by COVID restrictions.
- Phase 2 (Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces Pilot Program): Feedback specific to the Alcohol in Designated Parks Spaces was collected. Feedback was limited, with 23 responses received. Generally public supported a permanent alcohol in parks program, with most supporting all three pilot sites for a permanent program. There was some concern around the need for this program at all and potential safety issues with irresponsible drinking.
- Phase 3 (Draft Bylaw): Public and stakeholder engagement occurred using an online survey and virtual meetings with the public and targeted stakeholders.

Public participation was low, with 32 people completing the online survey and 46 residents attending virtual meetings and events. Generally, public support for the proposed revised Parks Bylaw was high. Most concerns and comments that were brought forward, centered around the Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces pilot. A full summary of the public feedback can be found in attachment 3.

In addition to the external feedback, the project team worked extensively throughout the project with departments across the City to support development and refinement of the bylaw, including holding two internal workshops. Consulted departments included Community Services, Engineering, Human Resources, Safety and Environment, Municipal Enforcement Services and Public Operations.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

Full implementation of this bylaw may require additional resources to achieve. As these needs are identified, business cases and capital charters may be brought forward in future budget cycles. Any requirements are expected to be minimal.

Legal / Risk:

A non-statutory public hearing could be held on this proposal to gather further public feedback, however, is not required by the *Municipal Government Act*. Based on the extent of engagement offered through the bylaw review process and lack of public interest, Administration is recommending that the bylaw receive all three readings without the public hearing.

Program or Service:

Introduction of the alcohol in parks program will be a new service level. Implementation of this may have positive or negative impacts to user satisfaction within parks and open spaces.

Some user groups may be impacted by the introduction and/or enforcement of new processes for events and business in parks. Administration believes these new processes will be beneficial in the long term and any concerns with the new processes will be transitional.

Organizational:

Recommended changes to the bylaw will have impacts to certain areas of responsibility, including the creation of new administrative processes for events, businesses, alcohol in parks and drones. These workload increases are expected to be short term in nature and can be managed with existing resources, requiring minor adjustments to existing workplans.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

If Council does not wish to support the proposed bylaw as presented, the following alternatives could be considered:

Alternative 1

Direct Administration to remove Section 5 - Liquor in Parks from the proposed Parks Bylaw 07/2022 prior to bringing forward to Council and extend the Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces pilot program over the 2022 summer season, with further public feedback captured.

- This would allow Administration to potentially gather more input, with more opportunities for public to participate in the pilot but may not yield any clearer public sentiment.

Alternative 2

Direct Administration to remove Section 5 - Liquor in Parks from the proposed Parks Bylaw 07/2022 prior to bringing forward to Council and discontinue any further work on permitting liquor consumption in St. Albert parks.

- This alternative would keep service levels status quo and be consistent with existing park usage but may not address the growing trend for alcohol consumption to be permitted in municipal parks in Alberta.

Alternative 3

Do nothing. Do not support the revised Parks Bylaw and retain the existing Parks Bylaw 19/65 as is.

- This alternative retains the status quo in all aspects however does not address the identified bylaw gaps and may have negative implications as the City continues to grow.

Report Date: April 11, 2022

Author: Daniele Podlubny, Interim Director

Department: Recreation & Parks

Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Diane Enger

Interim Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

DRAFT – BYLAW 07/2022

PARKS BYLAW

A bylaw to regulate the conduct and activities of people in Parks in order to provide for the safe, enjoyable and respectful use of Parks, to provide for the protection of Parks and to protect and preserve natural environments for the benefit of all residents of the City.

WHEREAS pursuant to section 3 of the *Municipal Government Act* the purposes of a municipality include: to foster the well-being of the environment, to provide services and facilities that the council considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality, and to develop and maintain safe and viable communities;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 7(a) of the *Municipal Government Act* a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 7(b) of the *Municipal Government Act* a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or a place that is open to the public;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 7(i) of the *Municipal Government Act* a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the enforcement of bylaws made under the *Municipal Government Act* or any other enactment

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of St. Albert ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Parks Bylaw”.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2. In this Bylaw any word, expression or phrase that is defined in the *Municipal Government Act* has the same meaning as set out in that statute, and:
 - a. “Chief Administrative Officer” or “CAO” means a person appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer under section 205 of the *Municipal Government Act* and pursuant to the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw of St. Albert, and includes
 - (i) a person to whom the CAO delegates a duty, power or responsibility of

the CAO as set out in this bylaw;

(ii) a person to whom a delegatee of the CAO further sub-delegates a power, duty or responsibility of the CAO as set out in this bylaw;

- b. “City” means the municipal corporation of the City of St. Albert or, where the context so requires, the area contained within the geographic boundary of the City;
- c. “Designated Picnic Area” means any Park area identified through signage approved by the CAO as a designated picnic area where liquor may be consumed;
- d. “Designated Trail” means any multi-use trail, pathway or sidewalk through a Park intended for non-vehicular travel;
- e. “Drone” means an aircraft, other than a balloon, rocket or kite, that is operated by a pilot who is not on board, and includes an unmanned air vehicle and a remotely piloted aircraft as those terms are defined in the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* SOR/96-433;
- f. “Encroachment” means anything placed with a fixed location on or under the ground or attached to something having a fixed location on or under the ground and extending on, over, or under Park land, including but is not limited to the following:
 - i. improvements as defined in the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association Manual of Standard Practice, 2019, as amended from time to time;
 - ii. buildings and all projections including eaves, cantilevers or similar and siding;
 - iii. sheds, including those attached to a dwelling or fence;
 - iv. fences
 - v. asphalt, concrete or brick sidewalks, curbs, parking pads, driveway aprons or driveways;
 - vi. structures such as decks, stairs, patios, pergolas, gazebos or similar;
 - vii. extension of adjacent lands by fill;
 - viii. walls;
 - ix. swimming pools and hot tubs;
 - x. shrubs, hedges, trees or other organic landscape materials; and
 - xi. hard landscaping including fire pits, planters or similar features.
- g. “Event” means a gathering of people commencing at a predetermined date and time and having any one or more of the following features:

- i. Exclusive use by attendees of any area, including vehicle parking areas, open space, park amenities;
 - ii. Erection or use of mobile or temporary structures including but not limited to: food trucks or other vehicles, tents or canopies greater than 10 feet in either length or width, trailers, stages or signage;
 - iii. Liquor service;
 - iv. Approved exemptions to other City bylaws (e.g. noise bylaw); or,
 - v. Road closures or other impediments to traffic flow as described in the Traffic Bylaw.
- h. “Municipal Violation Tag” means a City-issued notice that alleges an offence and provides a person with the opportunity to pay an amount to the City in lieu of prosecution in court for the offence;
- i. “Park” means any land owned, controlled or maintained by the City that is intended to be used by the public for recreation or general enjoyment; and is:
 - i. designated or districted as park under the Land Use Bylaw;
 - ii. dedicated as municipal reserve, environmental reserve, conservation reserve or a public utility lot; or,
 - iii. designated by the CAO as Park land under this Bylaw.
- j. “Peace Officer” means a Person employed for the purposes of preserving and maintaining the public peace, and includes
 - i. a provincially appointed Peace Officer pursuant to the Peace Officer Act;
 - ii. a provincially appointed Police Officer pursuant to the Police Act;
 - iii. a Bylaw Enforcement Officer authorized to enforce this Bylaw in accordance with his or her appointment; and
 - iv. a regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- k. “Rocket” means a projectile that contains its own propellant and that depends for its flight on a reaction set up by the release of a continuous jet of rapidly expanding gases; and includes a model rocket as defined in Canadian Aviation Regulations SOR/96-433.
- l. “Stormwater Management Facility” means a facility that forms part of the City’s storm sewer system, the purpose of which is to collect and store runoff from rainfall and snowmelt.
- m. “Violation Ticket” means a violation ticket issued in accordance with the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34, as amended, and,

- n. this bylaw shall not be interpreted or construed to prohibit or constrain activities in Parks by employees or contractors of the City while carrying out the duties required by their employment or contract.

ACTIVITIES IN PARKS

3. (1) Unless authorized by the CAO no person shall:
- (a) litter, or dispose of any garbage or refuse in a Park other than in a receptacle designated by signage for that purpose;
 - (b) possess or ignite any firecracker, fireworks or explosive material of any kind in a Park;
 - (c) launch or set off any Rocket in a Park;
 - (d) play or practice golf or archery in a Park except in an area designated by signage for such activity;
 - (e) build a permanent or temporary structure in a park;
 - (f) place or set up any form of abode, or otherwise camp in a Park.
- (2) No person shall start a fire in a Park except in a firepit or other receptacle designated by signage for that purpose or as authorized pursuant to the Fire Services Bylaw 21/2002.
- (3) Unless permitted by the CAO and in compliance with any conditions imposed by the CAO, no person shall enter upon any water or ice covered area within a Park that is identified by signage as a Stormwater Management Facility.
- (4) A person must not operate a Drone in a Park.
- (5) Despite subsection (4) a person may with the permission of the CAO operate a Drone in a Park if the Drone itself and its operation comply with all applicable provincial and federal legislation including all requirements under the Aeronautics Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. A-2 and its regulations.
- (6) An Event can only occur in a Park with the permission of the CAO, and no person shall organize or stage or participate in organizing or staging an Event in a Park without such CAO permission.
- (7) No person may operate a business in a Park except with the permission of the CAO and in accordance with any terms and conditions imposed by the CAO, if the operation of the business within the Park involves one or more of the following:

- (a) exclusive use of any area of a Park, including parking areas, open space, or park amenities;
 - (b) the erection or use of a mobile or temporary structure or a vehicle within the Park, including but not limited to food trucks, tents, trailers, canopies, stages or signage;
- (8) No person shall remove, deface or destroy a sign posted in a Park under the authority of the CAO.
- (9) The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to establish rules not inconsistent with any provision of this bylaw to regulate public use of Parks including Events in Parks, or activities of persons within Parks.
- (10) A rule made under subsection (9) shall be posted *verbatim* on the City's public website and upon such posting has the same legal force and effect as though set out in full in this bylaw. A person contravening such a rule commits an offence under this bylaw and is liable to the penalties herein prescribed for an offence under this bylaw.
- (11) In addition to posting on the City's public website the CAO may cause signage to be posted to notify the public of the existence of any rule made under subsection (9) but the absence of such signage is not a defence to a charge that a person has committed an offence pursuant to subsection (10).

ENCROACHMENTS

4. (1) A person must not cause or allow an Encroachment to be in a Park.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) an Encroachment is permissible in a Park if in compliance with an encroachment agreement approved by the CAO.
- (3) In addition to being subject to any other enforcement action, a Person who violates subsection (1) shall cause the immediate removal of the Encroachment upon receiving notice in writing from the City to do so, within the time specified in the notice.
- (4) If a Person fails to remove an Encroachment they have caused or allowed, after receiving a notice under subsection (3), the City may cause the removal of the Encroachment.
- (5) Notwithstanding subsections (2 to (4) of this section if the CAO determines that an Encroachment creates an unsafe condition, the City may immediately remove or alter the Encroachment as the CAO deems appropriate, without

- notice to a person who caused or allowed the Encroachment.
- (6) Any costs incurred by the City while acting in accordance with subsections (4) or (5) are debts owing to the City by a Person who caused or allowed the Encroachment.

LIQUOR IN PARKS

5. A person may consume liquor in a Park at a Designated Picnic Area, in accordance with any applicable provisions of the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act* and any applicable rules made under section 3(9) of this Bylaw.

ACCESS TO PARKS

6. (1) Unless authorized by the CAO no person shall be in a Park:
- (a) between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m; or,
 - (b) at any time when the Park is closed to the public.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person traveling along a Designated Trail within a Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

7. Unless authorized by the CAO no person within a Park shall:
- (a) use or dispose of pesticides, herbicides or fertilizer;
 - (b) use or dispose of hazardous chemicals;
 - (c) transport household, yard, or commercial waste for the purpose of disposal;
 - (d) dump, stockpile or dispose of compost;
 - (e) plant, damage, destroy, prune, mow or otherwise alter any vegetation;
 - (f) deface, break, damage any tree;
 - (g) cut down any tree;
 - (h) feed any wildlife;
 - (i) harass any wildlife; or,
 - (j) touch, damage or otherwise disturb any wildlife nesting or denning area.

OFFENCES

8. (1) A person who contravenes a provision of this bylaw by doing something that is prohibited or by failing to do something that is required, is guilty of an offence.
- (2) If a contravention of this bylaw is of a continuing nature, a separate offence

occurs in respect of each day, or part of a day, during which the contravention continues.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this bylaw is liable:

(a) to a specified penalty as directed in Schedule A of this bylaw; or

(b) in the case of a prosecution initiated by a violation ticket described in clause (b) of subsection 9(6) to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.00 or to an order of imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

(4) A peace officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this bylaw, a municipal violation tag specifying the fine amount established by this bylaw.

(5) Where a municipal violation tag is issued, the fine amount indicated thereon may be paid as directed in lieu of prosecution.

(6) A peace officer may issue, with respect to an offence under this bylaw, a violation ticket:

(a) specifying the penalty established by this bylaw; or

(b) requiring an appearance in court without specifying a penalty.

(7) Where a violation ticket specifies a fine amount, a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine amount may be made as directed.

(8) Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this bylaw, the CAO may carry out whatever inspections are reasonably required to determine compliance with this bylaw.

SEVERABILITY

9. Should any provision of this bylaw be invalid, then the invalid provision shall be severed, and the remainder of this bylaw shall be maintained.

REPEAL OF PREVIOUS PARKS BYLAW

10. Bylaw 19/65 is repealed concurrently with the coming into force of this bylaw.

READ a First time this XX day of Mon YEAR.

READ a Second time this XX day of Mon YEAR.

READ a Third time this XX day of Mon YEAR.

SCHEDULE A – FINES

Without restricting the generality of section 8(3) of this Bylaw, a fine amount of \$100 is established for use on Municipal Violation Tags and Violation Tickets for any offence for which a fine is not otherwise established in this Schedule A and for which a voluntary payment option is offered.

Offence	Section	Specified Penalty
Litter or dispose of garbage	3(1)(a)	250
Possess or set off firework	3(1)(b)	250
Start any fire	3(2)	500
Hold an Event without permission	3(6)	150
Operate a Business without permission	3(7)	150
Encroach on a Park	4(1)	500
Use or dispose of hazardous chemicals	7(b)	500
Cut down a tree	7(g)	500

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

Parks Bylaw

Community Living Standing Committee

April 11, 2022

Presented by:

Manda Wilde

Interim Manager – Recreation Facility Development and Partnerships, *Recreation and Parks*

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 City of
St. Albert
Calibrate Life

Overview

- Background
- Process To Date
- Areas of Consideration & What We Heard
- Alcohol in Parks
- Next Steps



Background

- Review is required by Council policy
- One of the oldest, largely unrevised bylaws in St. Albert
- Number of changes to related bylaws and policies over the years
- Recognized need to modernize based on current and anticipated future growth of the City

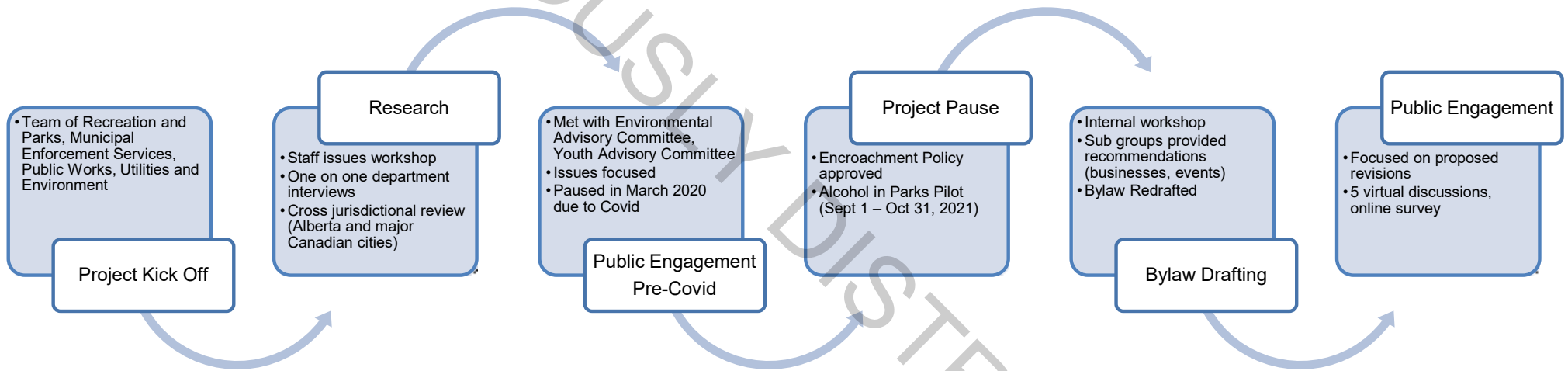


Purpose of the Parks Bylaw

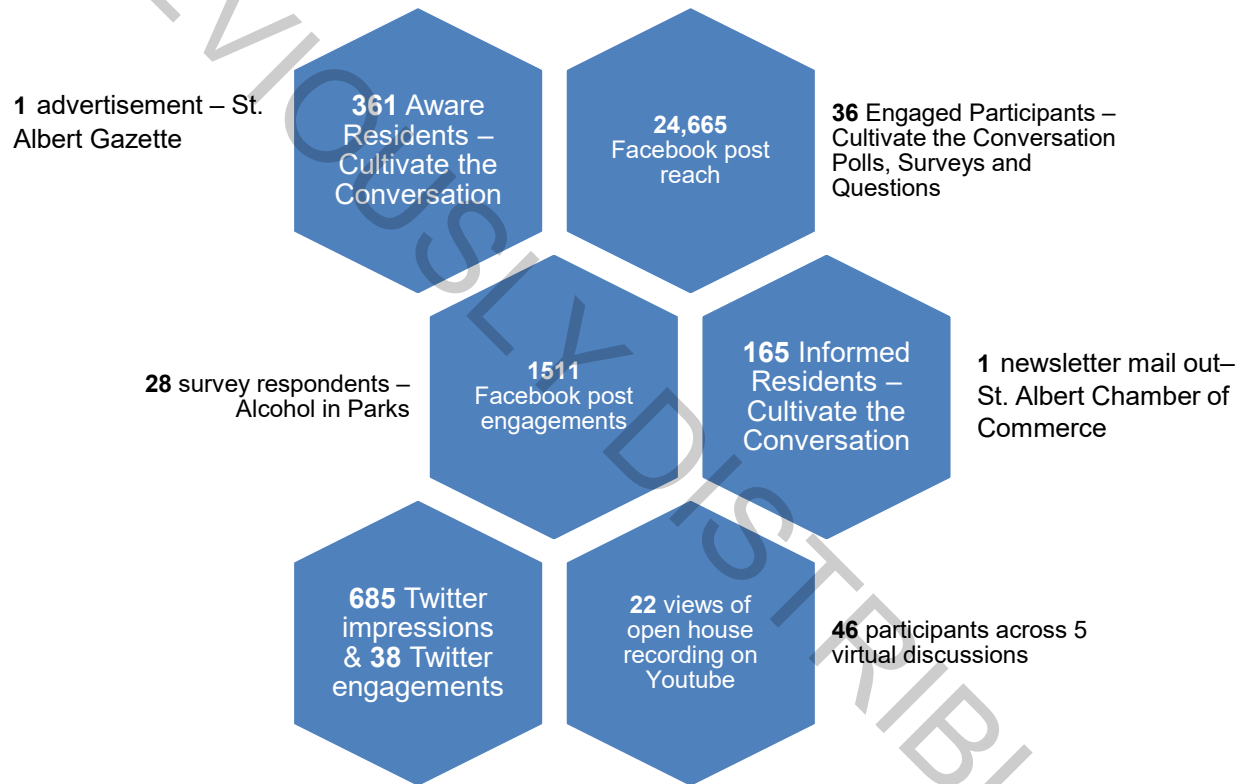
- To manage public behaviour in parks
- To provide clear and consistent parameters around specific uses
- To be flexible and adaptable to changing park uses



Process to Date



Public Engagement – By the Numbers



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Areas of Consideration & What We Heard

Scope of the Parks Bylaw

- Proposed Revision:

- Removes natural area as a designation
- Removes boulevards within parks as “in scope”
- Adds conservation reserve to parks as a potential future tool
- Adds “other lands as designated by CAO”

- What We Heard

- Broad support for the changes
- General questions around the appropriate delegation of authority to the CAO



Activities in Parks

- Proposed Revision:

- Removes duplicative provisions except where especially relevant
- Adds ability of CAO to create and post enforceable rules
- More general prohibition on damaging behaviour
- New regulations around stormwater management facilities
- New enforceability around drone use

- What We Heard:

- Some concerns around the appropriate delegation of authority to CAO
- Potential for additional restrictions
- Concerns around overregulation and removing public enjoyment of parks

Activities in Parks - Events

- Proposed Revision:
 - Add definition for events
 - Require events to receive permission to occur in parks
 - Adds fines for not seeking City permission
 - Adds ability to create enforceable conditions through permission process
- What We Heard
 - Support for new definition
 - Support for a new process
 - General concerns about not adding too much red tape for existing or minor events
 - Some comments around considerations for events

Activities in Parks - Businesses

- Proposed Revision:

- Add definition for business
- Requires businesses to receive permission to operate in parks

- What We Heard

- Support for a new approval process
- General concerns about avoiding excess red tape
- Some comments around not requiring both business and event permissions for event-based opportunities
- Considerations for implementation



Encroachment

- Proposed Revision:

- Prohibits all encroachments within Parks, except those within Public Utility Lots as per 2021 Council policy
- Adds penalties for non-compliance with removal of encroachment

- What We Heard

- Broad support from in person discussions
- Not addressed in survey



Environmental Protection

- Proposed Revision:

- Adds a new suite of provisions not currently in place
- Provisions are aligned to current messaging and best practice but are enforceable



- What We Heard

- Broad support for the changes
- Some suggestion to increase fines for certain offences (e.g. pesticide use)
- Suggestion to increase tree loss fines from proposed \$500 up to \$1000

Enforcement

- Proposed Revision:
 - Updates enforcement-related language where needed
 - Moves to a more specific fine structure with fine amount related to risk or impact from offence
 - Updated fines to align to similar provisions in other bylaws

What We Heard

- Limited feedback
- Some support for increased fines related to environmental issues
- Some comments for the need for increased enforcement of this bylaw



PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

Alcohol in Parks

Alcohol in Parks Pilot

- September 1 to October 31, 2021
- All picnic tables in Lions, Rotary and Kingswood Park permitted alcohol within 25 m from 11am to 9pm
- Signage provided at entrance to sites
- Signage affixed to each picnic table directing to survey

Across Alberta

	Edmonton	Strathcona County	Morinville	Calgary
2021 Programs	<p>Experienced lots of confusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edmonton staff noted poor communications as a likely reason 	<p>Very few issues, no enforcement actions</p>	<p>Limited uptake, no complaints or enforcement actions</p>	<p>Pilot went well, with more than 50 sites</p>
2022 Plans	<p>Proposal to make program permanent to Council in January 2022; referred back to public engagement due to public concerns</p> <p>Originally cancelled 2022 program pending public engagement; has now indicated the pilot will continue in 2022</p>	<p>Continue pilot program with potentially more sites</p>	<p>Plans uncertain due to other administrative priorities</p>	<p>Program to be expanded in 2022; no bylaw plans</p>

Public Engagement

- Limited Engagement:
 - 23 respondents (pilot)
 - 32 respondents (bylaw)
 - One Public Operations complaint
 - No enforcement warnings, tickets or other actions



Public Engagement Results

- Results
 - General support for a permanent program
 - Support for consumption in all parks
- Concerns raised:
 - Potential for drinking and driving
 - Family focused parks may be ruined
 - Cannabis use be revisited
 - Unnecessary program
- Considerations for the City if there were to be a permanent program
 - Ensure access to washrooms
 - Introducing a recycling program/bins
 - Consider proximity to child focused amenities/playgrounds
 - Limit areas of use
 - Keeping alcohol away from school sites



Public Engagement Results

General Themes

- Values based conversation and responses polarized
 - No middle ground in responses
 - Discussions tended towards pros and cons; however, clear positions still evident
- Input too limited to gauge broad community response



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Bylaw Recommendations

Recommendations and Alternatives

Alternative 1. Direct Administration to remove Section 5 – Liquor in Parks from the proposed Parks Bylaw 07/2022 prior to bringing forward to Council. Direct Administration to extend the the pilot program over the 2022 summer season, with further public feedback captured.

Alternative 2. Direct Administration to remove Section 5 – Liquor in Parks from the proposed Parks Bylaw 07/2022 prior to bringing forward to Council. Direct Administration to discontinue any further work on permitting liquor consumption in St. Albert parks.

Alternative 3. Do nothing. Do not support the revised Parks Bylaw and retain the existing Parks Bylaw 19/65 as is.

PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

Implementation

Parks Bylaw Implementation

- If approved, a number of implementation steps will be required
 - Updates or creation of administrative processes for business, events, drones
 - Identification of further site specific rules as per Section 3(9)
 - Webpage updates/public education
 - Lease updates for existing leaseholders (over time)
 - Park signage/infrastructure updates
 - Identify potential capital investments required (e.g. new signage, recycling bins etc.)

PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

What We Heard Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces Pilot Program

November 2021

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PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

OVERVIEW

In alignment to changes made to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) that permitted owners of public parks to allow individual consumption of alcohol at designated picnic areas and as directed by City Council on August 16, 2021, the City of St. Albert initiated an alcohol in designed park spaces pilot program. The pilot program was run from September 1 to October 31, 2021 under the following guidelines:

- Consumption permitted at Lions, Rotary and Kingswood Parks.
- Consumption permitted at all uncovered picnic tables within the three sites.
- Participants required to consume within 25 meters of picnic tables.
- Consumption permitted between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Consumption prohibited during special events.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Feedback was sought using the City's Cultivate the Conversation platform. Pilot participants and the general public were advised of the engagement opportunity through onsite signage at the three pilot sites as well as social media advertising. The survey was open from September 1 to October 31, 2021.

We wish to thank all survey participants for their valuable feedback. These responses will be used to determine future direction for the consumption of alcohol within St. Albert parks.



FEEDBACK RECEIVED

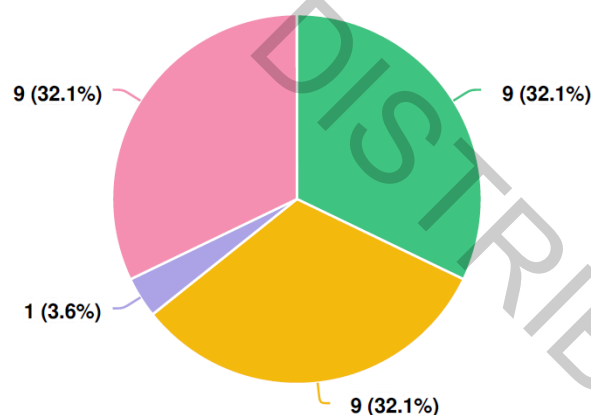
Direct Feedback

City administration-initiated tracking of pilot related complaints, inquiries and enforcement actions. Over the course of the pilot, there was one clean up request for bottles left behind at Lions Park, and no enforcement complaints or actions.

Summary of Survey Findings

There were 28 survey respondents. These responses are not a statistical representation of the community of St. Albert and the opinions expressed should not be assumed to represent the majority of St. Albert residents. A full report for all questions can be found in Appendix A.

Residents were asked which pilot program site they would like to provide feedback on. Of the 28 responses, only one response was in respect to Rotary Park. Respondents were almost evenly split between those who drank alcohol on their visit (13/25) and those who did not (12/25), with 3 declining to respond.



Question options

● Kingswood Park ● Lions Park ● Rotary Park ● General Feedback (no specific site/multiple sites)

- Fifteen responses were in favour of alcohol in parks, with the following suggestions:
 - Adding recycle bins, perhaps for charity
 - Reducing radius for consumption from 25m to 1.5m

- Eight responses were not supportive of alcohol in parks with the following generalized comments
 - Unnecessary
 - Changes the family focus of parks
 - Policing ineffective

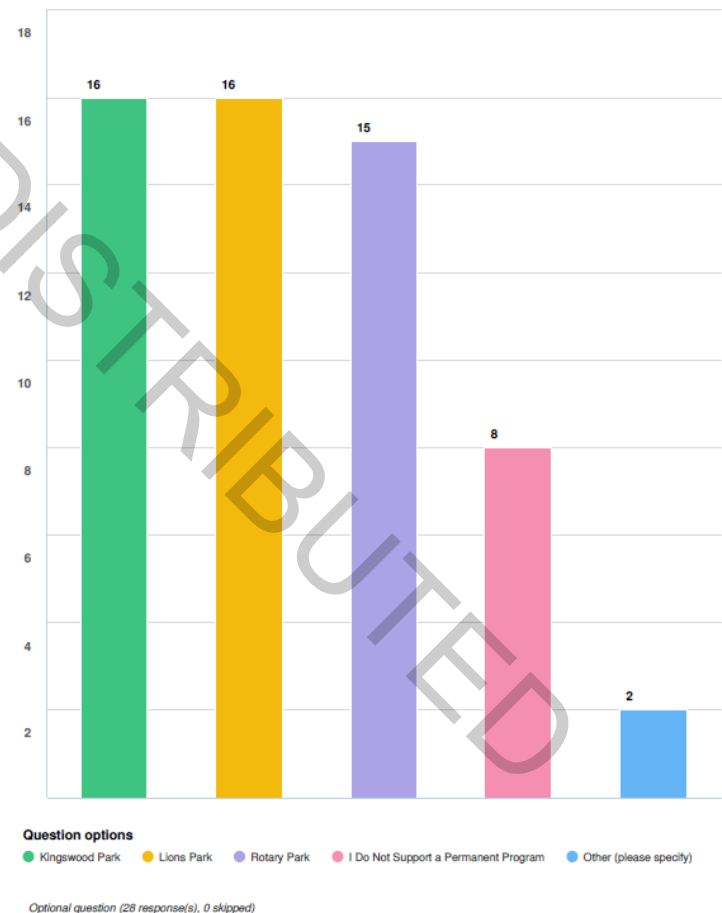
Respondents were asked if they were supportive of a permanent alcohol in parks program. Eighteen respondents were in favour, with nine opposed. Of the opposed, the following summarized concerns were shared:

- Negative societal and individual impacts from alcohol/alcoholism
- Changing the nature and intent of parks spaces away from children and families
- Lack of policing
- Site impacts (e.g., bottles, broken glass) and costs

Respondents were next asked which, if any, of the pilot sites they would prefer to see drinking alcohol continued at. Of the sites, all three were almost equally supported, with eight respondents not supporting a permanent program at any site.

Finally respondents were asked to share what information they felt the City should consider when deciding whether to implement a permanent program. There were 16 responses with the following themes:

- Support for a permanent program
- Desires for no alcohol in parks with a variety of supporting reasons
- Consideration for the area of permissible consumption
- Addition of garbage bins, recycling bins and site signage to encourage responsibility
- Concerns around drunk driving
- Site selection concerns around children, visibility of site



NEXT STEPS:

The information collected during this pilot program will be used to inform future public engagement on this topic and ultimately future decisions on whether a permanent program for alcohol consumption in designated park spaces should be permitted in St. Albert.

Please contact Manda Wilde, Senior Project Manager, Parks Development at mwilde@stalbert.ca if there are any questions or concerns with this report.

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APPENDIX A : PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FULL REPORT

PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces Pilot Program Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

08 October 2020 - 31 October 2021

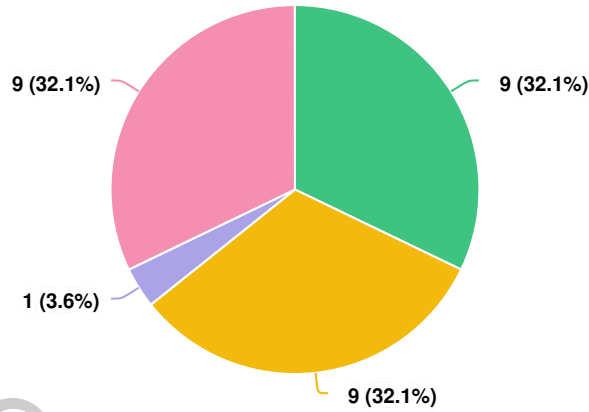
PROJECT NAME:

Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces Pilot Program

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SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Which pilot program park site did you visit that would you like to provide feedback about?



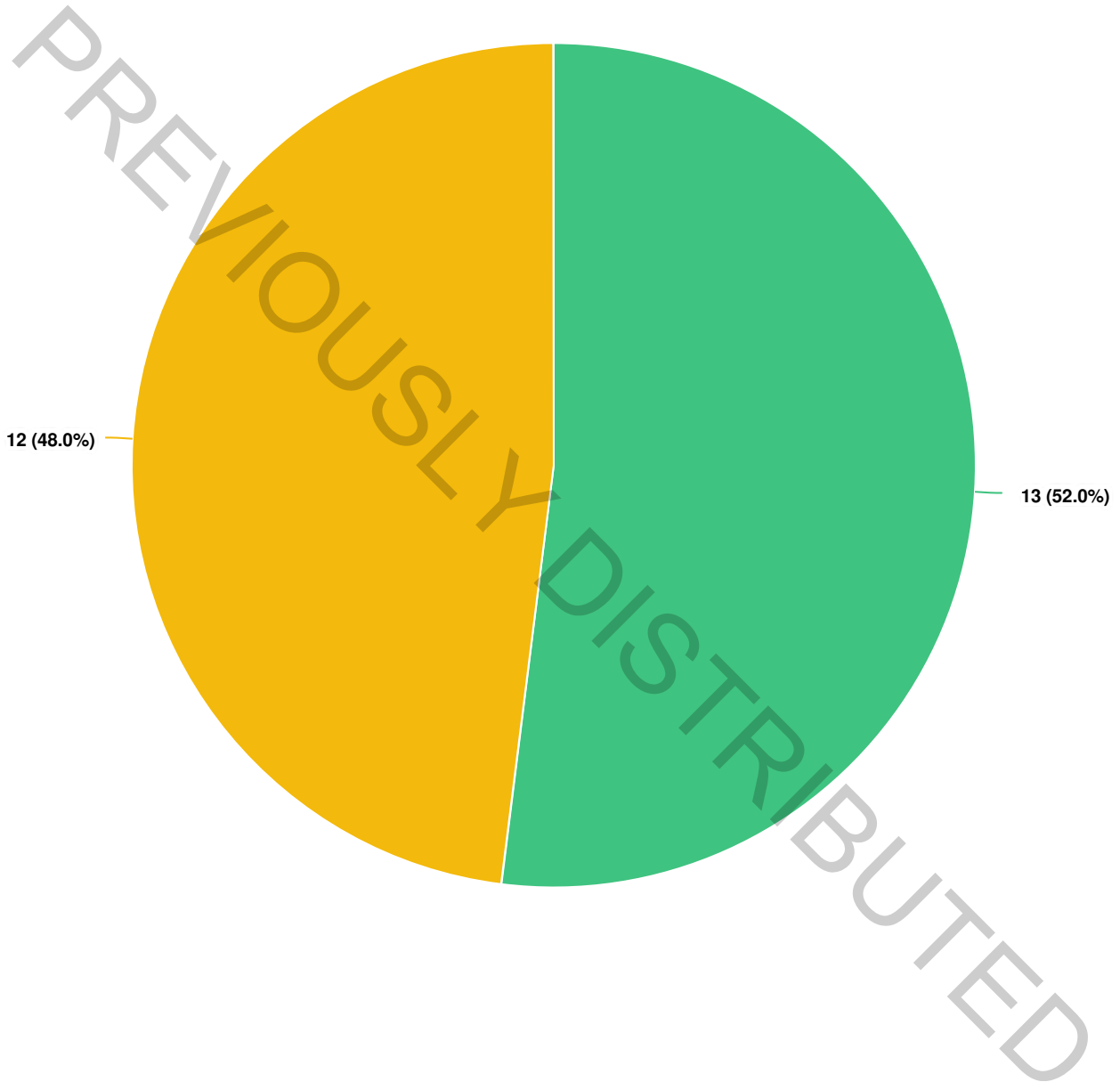
Question options

- Kingswood Park
- Lions Park
- Rotary Park
- General Feedback (no specific site/multiple sites)

Optional question (28 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

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Q2 Did you consume alcohol during your visit?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (25 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q3 | What would you like to share about your experience with the pilot for alcohol consumption at picnic sites in designated parks?

Its a good idea, i just wish there were still a liquor store across the road from Lions

I think it's unnecessary.

Consume responsibility and there won't be a problem. It's always great to have a beer and a fire at a picnic

We are casual drinkers who would consider a drink in the park - but haven't tried it yet

Very nice experience for a night with the family for a bbq. Everyone at the park tonight are respectfully having fun in their own parties.

I have witnessed impaired people at two different parks on the last ten days. Calling Bylaw officers is a waste of time. So a park that should be inclusive has now become an unfriendly place for children, and non-drinkers as well. I won't be visiting any of these parks in future. I've had the same experience in a couple of Edmonton parks too. Why does anyone need to drink alcohol at 11 am? Why does anyone need to drink alcohol in a public park in the first place?

We didn't see anyone consuming alcohol. We read the notice on the table that said that consuming alcohol is allowed only within 25 metres of designated tables. We think that 25 metres is far too large of an area. Perhaps 2.5 metres would be more appropriate.

It was nice and there didn't appear to be anyone abusing the privilege, it didn't appear to alter the demographic at the park on a Sat afternoon.

Great initiative!

Great idea! I would add a recycle bottle bin maybe even a charity one

Why is this necessary? More policing needed. More bottles being left to clean up.

I don't agree with alcohol in the parks.

Great time with a few family members, noticed other family's enjoying a few drinks respectfully

I love it, respectful alcohol consumption like in European cities is the way to go

Why do we need alcohol in the parks?

Enjoyed my opportunity to drink my beer without the need of having to hide it.

Should be rolled out to all parks.

If I was a teenager and I drank I would love this project

Totally support this program! It should continue year round.

I like having the option of having a glass of something while having a family BBQ

Parks are for families & children & people who want to enjoy nature without the use of alcohol which is one of the causes of family separation!

Fun time

This is the dumbest idea the city has ever had.

Optional question (23 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

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Q4 Do you support allowing alcohol consumption in designated St. Albert's parks permanently?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (27 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 | If you do not support alcohol consumption in parks, why not?

Alcoholism is a major problem in our city & province! This is a safe space, let's keep it that way!

Consuming alcohol is not a right. And it's an infringement on my rights as a person with alcoholism in my family. This is triggering for many people to witness impaired individuals in a public setting. The City exhibits a total lack of sensitivity.

Parks should be suitable for families and alcohol consumption in a public park is unnecessary.

Policing needed. Underage drinking in these parks Bottle clean up, broken glass Keep parks for all ages and family safe

People are not great at self control. If I'm having a picnic with my kids and the people at the next picnic table get rowdy, realistically the only thing that I can do is pack up and move my family to another site.

Why. Would be nice to go somewhere with the family without liquor being involved

All the criminals are wearing masks inside and outside now so how do you identify someone anymore. And homeless people would get rounded up and tossed into jail where someone who has a rich daddy gets told to go home. One rule for thee but not for me.

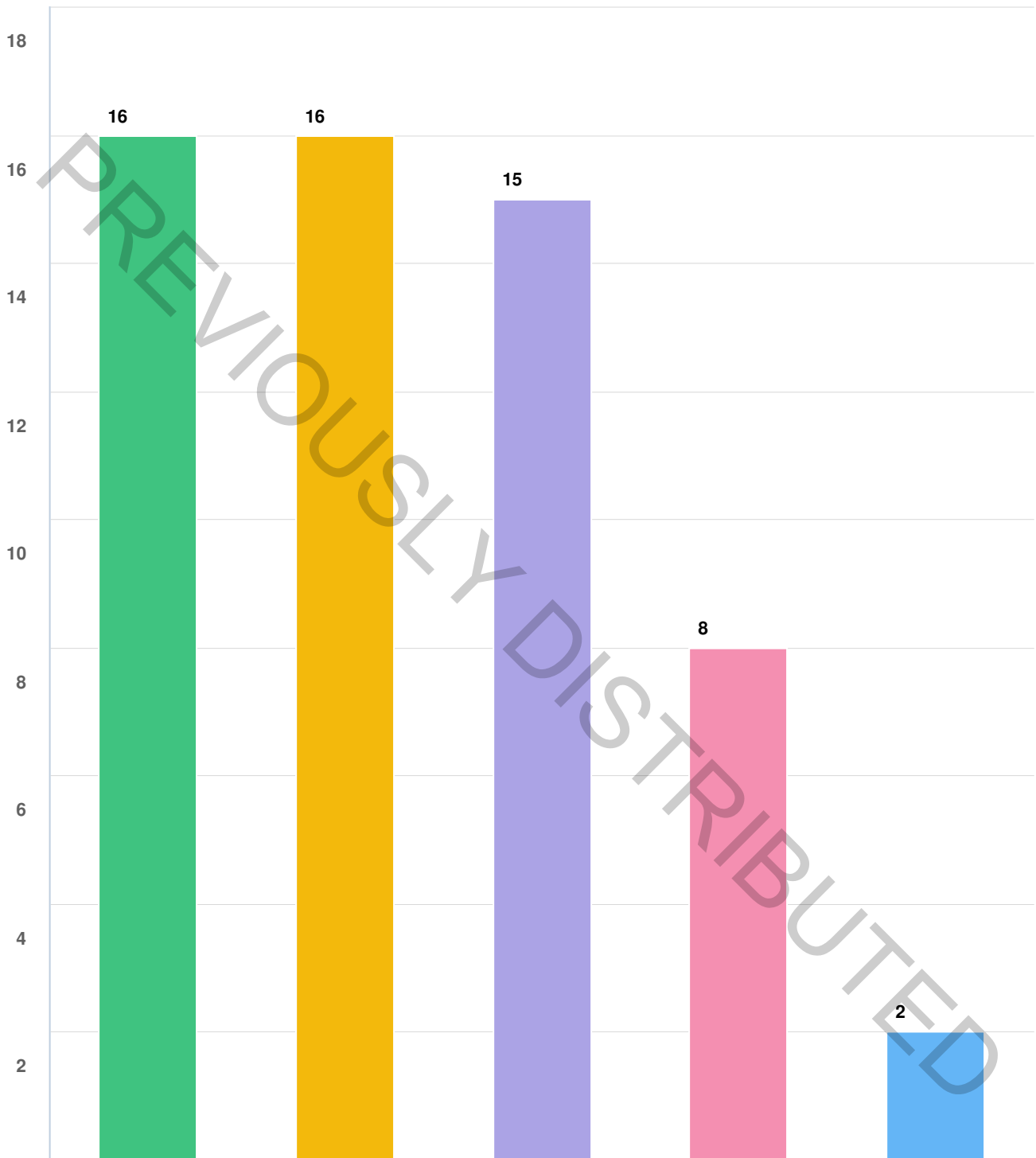
I just did

Waste of taxpayers dollars

Optional question (9 response(s), 19 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q6 Would you support any of these parks as a permanent site where individual alcohol consumption is permitted? Select all that apply.



Question options

- Kingswood Park
- Lions Park
- Rotary Park
- I Do Not Support a Permanent Program
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (28 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 | Is there any information you would like to share that the City should consider when assessing the potential of a permanent program permitting alcohol consumption in St. Albert parks?

Please consider me, the poor dog walker (sorry, im laying it on thick) who is down by the river 365 nights a year because the doggo doesnt care what the weather is like. If anything will make the long cold walks at -25 better, its a little hooch with my pooch. But seriously, can you extend this through the winter as part of your test.

Please STOP

Thank you for permitting alcohol consumption in a park.

Like this option, but not at places like Lions Park where there can be a lot of children

Visible and accessible location for these permitted areas. Recycle bins for empties.

Ask yourselves why this is so necessary. Ask yourselves who will not be able to enjoy these parks if this becomes permanent. And if it becomes permanent, will it spread to other parks?

Please reconsider the metre limit.

No

Let's keep our city a bit safer and be smart about it. We attract families and have great parks, why is alcohol necessary in them? Add driving to this mix too...

If people want to drink they can party in their own backyard.

Ensure garbage bins area nearby and possible signage at park entrance to increase public awareness and promote cleanliness around these areas

No

Drunk driving with kids in the car

Be nice to the homeless and let them have fun too there is way too much discrimination in this town.

Alcohol is a great remover of family values

This program is an absolute disgrace. I am embarrassed of such absolutely stupidity on behalf of the city.

Optional question (16 response(s), 12 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question